

DIME NOVEL ROUND-UP

A monthly magazine devoted to the collecting, preservation and literature of the old-time dime and nickel novels, libraries and popular story papers.

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Whole No. 264

The Wild West Shows Pass in Grand Review

by J. Edward Leithead

When, in the spring of 1883, at Omaha, Nebraska, glass balls were shattered by a handsome, long-haired rider, a buffalo herd kicked up dust around a wide arena, pursued by this same horseman with blank-loaded gun, and defeathered indians launched a mimic attack on a Concord stagecoach, the Wild West show had started on a career which was to last thirty years. Col. W. F. Cody (Buffalo Bill) and Dr. W. F. Carver were the organizers.

Later they split up, each to run his own Wild West show. In 1887, Major Gordon W. Lillie (Pawnee Bill), who had been with Cody's first show in charge of a band of Pawnees, gave Buffalo Bill's Wild West some competition with Pawnee Bill's Historic Wild West. Each of these big shows featured at one time young women remarkable for their shooting skill—Annie Oakley with Buffalo Bill and May Lillie with Pawnee Bill (formerly May Manning, of Philadelphia, Pa., she and Major Lillie were married in 1886). Similarly, each of these shows had a famous Indian chief as an added attraction—Sitting Bull, the Sioux, joined Buffalo Bill for one season, while Geronimo, the Apache, was with Pawnee Bill for two seasons. Later on, Iron Tail toured with Buffalo Bill and Spotted Tail with Pawnee Bill. Both Indians were Sioux chiefs.

Buffalo Bill's Wild West and Congress of Rough Riders of the World, as it eventually came to be known, followed three years of traveling the United States with a trip abroad,

where it was highly acclaimed, particularly in England. Pawnee Bill's Historic Wild West made a similar trip to Europe about 1894.

At the Chicago World's Fair, 1893, Buffalo Bill's Wild West was a big feature, and I believe Calamity Jane joined the show there for a time.

The year 1903 found Cody once more abroad, and an excellent record of the show's travels is in the book, "Four Years in Europe With Buffalo Bill," by Charles E. Griffin. Nathan Salsbury was Cody's partner in the show for many years, and Major John M. Burke, assisted some of the time by Col. Prentiss Ingraham, was its press agent. Dexter W. Fellows (once press agent for Pawnee Bill) and Courtney Ryley Cooper were also press agents for Buffalo Bill's Wild West.

Buffalo Bill and Pawnee Bill each operated as separate showmen until 1908, at which time a deal was made to combine the shows, and the next year, 1909, Buffalo Bill's Wild West Combined with Pawnee Bill's Great Far East took the road. The program of that season had on its cover a medallion of Cody and Lillie surrounded by Indians and elephants. That medallion will be remembered by old readers of Street & Smith's Buffalo Bill Stories around 1910, as it was used as the masthead on covers beginning with the issue #481. Buffalo Bill's Ultimatum, or, Facing Terrors With Pawnee Bill, and intended no doubt to publicize the Buffalo Bill-Pawnee Bill combined shows.

The 1910 program had a picture of the white-haired Cody on horseback, hat in hand, headed, "Buffalo Bill Bids You Good-Bye—The Wild West and Far East—A Life Story and Book of Brave Deeds—The Farewell Salute—Magazine and Official Review—Price 10¢." But the grand old scout never got the chance to retire. It was to be several years before he made the final salute from his white horse.

The season of 1913 was the last for the great show, since Tammen and Bonfils of the "Denver Post," owners of the Sells-Floto Circus, foreclosed it. During the seasons of 1914 and 1915, Buffalo Bill was with the Sells-Floto Circus. Pawnee Bill had gone back to his Buffalo Ranch near Pawnee, Oklahoma.

Col. Cody was almost through with show business himself. For the season of 1916 he joined Miller Bros. 101 Ranch Real Wild West. This was another of the great shows of bygone days. The brothers were Joseph C., Zack T. and George L. Miller, the sons of Col. George W. Miller, who owned the vast 101 Ranch in Oklahoma. The show began its travels about 1909 and gave its last performance under the last surviving brother, Col. Zack Miller, in 1931. Bill Pickett, the colored bulldogger of longhorned steers, was one of its star performers. So were Lucille Mulhall, Tad Lucas and Chester Byers, the champion roper. Tom Mix was another. During

the season of 1925, Ezra Meeker of ox team and Oregon Trail fame, was a big feature (he is said to have been about ninety-five years old at that time). Like the other big Wild West shows, Miller Bros. 101 Ranch went abroad, visiting England in 1914. It would have toured the continent but for the start of World War I.

The other Wild West shows, which later combined, were those of Col. Fred Cummins and Col. Vernon C. Seaver (the latter was head of the Young Buffalo Wild West and Texas Rangers show). Cummins, born in 1859 at Council Bluffs, was the son of Hiram Cummins, who ran a trading-post there. In 1898, Col. Cummins was one of the Directors and General Managers of the Great Indian Congress of 31 tribes at the Trans-Mississippi Exposition at Omaha (Buffalo Bill was there with his show and Cody Day was celebrated), and the Omaha Greater American Exhibition in 1899. At the Pan-American, Buffalo, 1901, he presented Calamity Jane and Geronimo as his star attractions.

During the seasons 1901-1902, Col. Cummins' Indian Congress and Wild West toured New England, and in 1903 the show was at Madison Square Garden, New York. Chief Joseph of the Nez Percés was the big attraction that year. The Cummins' Wild West was a feature of the St. Louis World's Fair, 1904. It toured the United States in 1905-1906, then cross-

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Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show taken on Staten Island just before their first trip to Europe in 1887 where they were a feature attraction in the Golden Jubilee year of Queen Victoria. Buffalo Bill is shown seated in front.

Broncho Charlie Miller is also pictured.

ed the ocean, to be away from 1907 to 1911. On his return to America, Col. Cummins, in 1912, joined up with Col. Seaver, their shows merging as the Young Buffalo Wild West and Col. Fred Cummins Far East Combined. Annie Oakley had once been with the Young Buffalo show.

I wish to acknowledge my indebtedness to Mr. Don Russell, editor of the WESTERNERS BRAND BOOK, for some of the information about Wild West shows. Following is a list of dime novels in which Buffalo Bill's Wild West show is featured:

Beadle's Dime Library #629, Dare-death Dick, the King of the Cowboys, or, In the Wild West With Buffalo Bill. By Leon Lewis.

Beadle's Dime Library #776, Chicago Charlie, the Columbian Detective, or, The Hawks of the Lakeside League. A Story of the World's Fair 1893. By A. K. Sims

Beadle's Half-Dime Library #518, Cool Colorado in New York, or, The Cowboy's Fight for a Million. By Albert W. Aiken.

Wide Awake Library #1003, Little Quick Shot, or, Buffalo Bill's Wild West in Europe. By Paul Braddon.

Three Chums Weekly #52, Three Chums With Buffalo Bill's Wild West, or, One Good Turn Deserves Another. By Harry Moore.

Until I recently saw a copy of "Little Quick Shot, or, Buffalo Bill's Wild West in Europe," I had assumed that "Little Quick Shot" in the story was Annie Oakley, for Sitting Bull had named her "Little Sure Shot," and I was a little disappointed to find out it wasn't Annie Oakley but a young man. I quote from the first chapter, "Little Quick Shot's Engagement":

"When Colonel William Cody, known to fame as Buffalo Bill, was preparing to invade Europe with his typical exhibition of the Wild West, he was accosted by a youth of eighteen, at Erastina, one bright afternoon, with:

" 'Mr. Cody, have you got all the attractions you want for your show?'

"Colonel Cody looked down at the youth as if a little surprised at the question and saw he was from the

Wild West, too. His practiced eye detected the tan of the Western sun, winds and rain in his face.

" 'No,' he answered, 'I haven't got all I want, but I think I have got about all that I can get who are worth having. Why?'

" 'I asked because I am from the West, and have come all the way from beyond the Yellowstone to see if I could go with you.'

" 'What can you do that is typical of the West?' Colonel Cody asked.

" 'I can shoot better than anybody I ever saw.'

"Cody smiled. Shooting was such a common art in the West that it attracted little or no attention. Yet he was always interested in marksmanship, and so he said to the boy:

" 'We have some good shots already in our show.'

" 'I have seen them shoot,' said the boy, 'but they can't shoot as I can.'

" 'They can't, eh?'

" 'No, sir.'

" 'Maybe you can shoot better than I can!'

" 'I can.'

"Cody looked at him a moment, as if surprised, and saw that he had nerve.

" 'Well, if you can shoot better than I can, I'll give you a place in my show at \$100 a month.'

Little Quick Shot got the job. He proved a wonder when Buffalo Bill tried him out, following the afternoon performance, with the cowboys, scouts and Indians of the show all present. Rifle, shotgun or revolver, he could use all with equal skill. Hit peanuts with a revolver. Later, in the show, he shot apples tossed into the air while blindfolded. Story by Paul Braddon, a pseudonym of W. Howard Van Orden, who also wrote some Pawnee Bill novels in Wide Awake Library. The cover of the novel shows a section of the Wild West show grounds, Buffalo Bill tossing up an apple for Little Quick Shot to target and show people gathered round to watch.

There is an excellent description of the grand review which opened a performance of Buffalo Bill's Wild

West at the old Madison Square Garden in "Three Chums With Buffalo Bill's Wild West" (two of the chums, Ben Bright and Dorothy Dare act as substitutes in the show for Johnny Baker and Annie Oakley, the latter having remained in Europe to fill vaudeville engagements when the big show returned to the United States):

"The immense amphitheatre at Madison Square was rapidly filling up, next day, at one o'clock. It was the opening day of Buffalo Bill's Wild West and Congress of Rough Riders of the World, and the people were eager to witness the performance. They came in crowds, and it kept the ushers busy conducting them to their seats.

"Ben had asked permission of Buffalo Bill to have his chum, Tom True, and Dorothy's chum, Mamie Blair, stay behind the scenes with himself and Dorothy, and the ex-scout consented.

The next issue of the Round-up will contain the conclusion of Mr. Leithhead's article "The Wild West Shows Pass in Grand Review."

RECENTLY PUBLISHED.

VILLAINS GALORE, The Heyday of the Popular Story Weekly, by Mary Noel, has been published by the Macmillan Company, New York. It sells at \$5.00 and well worth it. A very comprehensive history and critical study of the story papers of the last century. Such popular story papers as the New York Ledger, New York Weekly, Flag of Our Union, and Saturday Night are well represented. A must for collectors.

NEWSY NEWS

by Ralph F. Cummings

Have you seen the "Famous Western Outlaw Sheriff Battles," that's just come out, at 35¢, by Hank Sterling. Has stories on the Daltons, Jesse James, Pat Garrett, Billy the Kid, Sam Bass, Wild Bill and others. If

you can't get a copy, I'll see if I can get a copy for you.

"I saw 'The Law vs. Billy the Kid,' last Monday night up in Worcester. It was good, but not like the old Billy the Kid stories. Billy was a feller named Murphy.

Poor Eli Messier, has lost his second dog within 4 or 5 months. He sure is having it tough, I'll say. Says this dog was hit 3 or 4 days before and then died as if it had been poisoned.

Walter Higgins and Kenneth Daggett went up to visit Bill Burns around the first of June, sure was a fine get together.

We all send our greatest sympathy to Bill Burns and family, for their big loss. God bless him always wherever he may be.

Bob Smeltzer wants to know if any of us remember Harold G. Lorange, Darien Centre, N. Y., that sold English and American novels 20 yrs. ago. Guess a few of us still remember him Bob. Last time I heard from him, a couple years ago, he was working in a gas station at Bradenton, Fla. I wrote a few months ago, and the letter came back, unclaimed.

I hate to say this, but a number of the Brotherhood members are way behind in dues, and it costs money to keep a little magazine like the Round Up going, so please fellows, send in your subscription, don't let our little magazine fall by the wayside. It's the only magazine of its kind in the U. S. today. So let's keep it going—if we don't get dues, we can't pay for the printing, and so, won't you help, Pard? I ran it from July 1st 1930 to July 1st 1952, and I want to see it grow, if possible. Ed. LeBlanc is doing every thing he can to keep the Round-Up going. He is doing a wonderful job, all around, so fellers, won't you please help him out, by sending in your dues, huh, fellers?

Yep, Charlie Duprez has moved to Smithtown Branch, L. I., N. Y.—228 Larch Lane. Now he knows what it is to live in the sticks—he wonders how I do it, some times I wonder myself.

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

198. Mrs. Robert G. Ford, 43 Bedford Rd., N. Tarrytown, N. Y. (New address).
 136. Aurelia Scott, 530 Wilson Ave., Dubuque, Iowa (New address).

(Advertisements)

EXCHANGE COLUMN

For Sale. Cloth Algers, Hentys, Optics, Otis, etc. Personal Search Service. Mrs. Robert G. Ford, 43 Bedford Road, N. Tarrytown, N. Y.

For Sale. 12 perfect Boys Stars Liby, 7 are Jack Wrights, who is interested? Also small size Tousey reprints in lots of 25 or more at real bargains. Roy E. Swanstrom, 992 W. Co. RD 1, New Brighton 12, Minn.

Wanted: Secret Service #32 53 76 81 192 438 458 467 569 617. Harvey Seefeldt, 2023 Homecrest Avenue, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Wanted: Munsey's Popular Series and Leather Clad Tales. Any issues, any condition. Samuel Olmhausen, 824

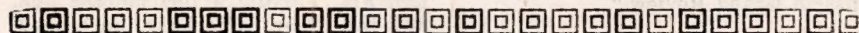
Chester Ave., East Liverpool, Ohio.

Wanted: Happy Days Nos. 1 to 624. Bound or loose, prefer long runs but will take short runs of 25 or more. Cash or trade for mint U. S. stamps. Arvid Dahlstedt, Box 133, Great Barrington, Mass.

For Sale or Trade: Buffalo Bill Stories in German. Don Russell, 191 Clinton Ave., Elmhurst, Ill.

Wanted: Merriwell Series in good condition #7 8 10 13 15 17 18 20 75 76 80 85 87 88 90 109 120 126 153. Ralph F. Cummings, Fisherville, Mas.

I have for sale Pluck and Luck, James Boys Weekly, Wild West Wky, N. Y. Detective Library, Diamond Dick Weekly, Frank Reade Weekly, Log Cabin Library, Secret Service, Young Broadbrim Weekly, Buffalo Bill Stories, Nick Carter, Rough Rider Weekly, Beadles Boys Library, Frank Reade Library, Brave & Bold, Beadles Dime Library, Wide Awake Weekly, Wide Awake Library, etc. Numbers and prices on request. Roy E. Morris, 901 East Michigan Ave., Orlando, Florida.



WANTED!

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 372

Argosy, Vol. 12 13 14

Bound To Win Library #15 38

Young Klondike #7 13 18 21 25

Motor Stories by John H. Whitson
 #1 6 9 26

Good News (any)

Young People of America (any)

All Sports Library #16 30 40

Yankee Doodle #2 6 14 9 10

Young Glory #8 10 13 18 19

Comrades #6 12 22 36 42

Camp Fire Library #4 32 42

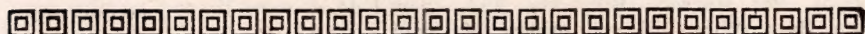
Bright Days (any)

Old Post Cards (views only)

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FROM THE CALDWELL COLLECTION

Following is a partial list of novels offered in single numbers. In many cases, complete sets can be supplied. Let us know your wants for our complete quotation.

Some numbers are higher than price listed, but generally the price listed is for all numbers. Tousey novels are for original issues, before reprinting started. Reprinted issues are much cheaper.

Orders under \$2.00 cannot be accepted. Postpaid. Subject to prior sale.

Price per copy

Diamond Dick. Large \$1.50, small 2.50	Top Notch, Sport Story, Fame & Fortune containing Merriwell stories, \$1.00 each
Shield \$2.00	Detective Story Mag. containing Nick Carter, \$1.00
Young Athlete \$1.25	Beadles' Youth's Casket \$1.50
Boys' Home \$1.00	Merry's Museum (juv.) 35¢
Boys' Best. Large 75¢, small \$1.00	Brave & Bold \$1.00 up
Work and Win \$1.00 up.	Pleasant Hours (Leslie) 25¢
Tip Top. Large to #499, \$1.00	Motor Stories \$1.00
#500-850, 60¢	Frank Manley \$1.25
Something to Read (Eng.) 10¢	Beadles' Boys Lib. \$2 up
Saturday Night 25¢	Beadle's Monthly \$1.00
Boys of America (Leslie) \$1.50	N. Y. Weekly 25¢
Happy Days 25¢ to \$1.00	N. Y. Ledger 25¢
Boys of N. Y. \$1.00 up.	All Sports \$1.25
Vickery and Hill papers, 25¢-50¢	Do and Dare \$1.50-\$2.00
Half-Dime Lib. \$1 up	Dime Lib. \$1.50 up
Secret Service \$1.50 up	Liberty Boys \$1.50 up
Wild West \$1.00 up	Fame & Fortune \$1.00 up
Pluck & Luck \$1.00 up	True Blue \$1.50-\$2.50
American Indian \$2.00	Western Weekly \$1.50
Old Sleuth Lib. \$1.00	Sea & Shore (thick) \$2
Girls & Boys of America (Munro) \$1	Jonathan Wild \$3.
Boys and Girls of America, \$1.00	Handsome Jack \$3.50
Claude Duval (DeWitt) \$3	Golden Days 15¢-25¢
Nightshade \$3.50	War Lib. (Pocket) \$2.50
Union Jack (Eng.) 35¢	Magnet 75¢ up
Popular Series Fiction & Fact \$1.50	Might & Main \$1.50
Peoples Pocket Story Books (Eng) 25¢-35¢	Bowery Boy \$1.25
War Library \$2.50	Beadles Frontier 25¢
Medal \$1.00 up	

RALPH P. SMITH

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Lawrence, Mass.

(Ask about any kind not listed. We have many.)

NOVELS WANTED

Munro's Golden Hours. Nos. 18 to 265, 319 to 328, 337 to 351, 669.
 The Lark. G. Burgess. S. F., Cal. editor. Nos. 18, 21, 23.
 Thompson & West's History of Nevada.
 Tousey's The Boys of New York pocket library. Nos. 37, 74, 76, 81, 86, 87.
 The Philistine. Vol. 2, small size pkt. size mag.
 The Public Life of William F. Wallett, the queen's jester. Pub. prior to 1850.
 N. Y. Public Library Bulletin. July, 1922.
 Wm. McDevitt's Californiana, Book Collecting. No. 17, 19, 31, 36 39 42 49 53 63
 James Madison's—The rare book speculator, vol. 1 no. 1, up; The Collector's
 Guide, no. 1 to 13, 17 18 19 21 23 24; The Collector's Journal, vol. 4 No. 6.
 Bill Barlow's Sagebrush Philosophy, vol. 1 no. 1 to vol. 2 nos. 1, to vol. 3, nos.
 1 to 6, vol. 4 nos. 1 to 6, vol. 5 nos. 1, 2, 3, vol. 6 nos. 1, 2. vol. 7 no. 1. vol 8
 nos. 3, 4, vol. 9 nos. 2, 5, vol. 10 nos. 2, 4, vol. 11 nos. 2 to 5. vol. 12 nos. 1 to 6
 vol. 13, nos. 1 to 6, vol. 14, nos. 1 2 3 6.
 R. P. Smith's Happy Hours Magazine nos. 2, 3 and no. 34, dated Sept. Oct. '30.
 Donohue's—Twin Hells, by Reynolds, the Bandit Four, by Rutherford, Life of
 Wild Bill, the scout, Flashlight Detective Series, nos. 1 4 5 11 to 16 19 22 25
 35 39 42 44 45 47 49 51 53 to 59 64 to 69 71 72 74 to 86 90 92 93 97 99 100 103
 to 111 113 to 116 118 119 122 123 124 127 128 130 132 134 to 140 142 143
 145 147 148 150
 Geo. Munro's Sons, Seaside Library pocket edition, nos. 1653 1692 1701 1714
 1736 by Gustave Aimard.
 Ottenheimer's—Border & Bandit Series. No. 14.
 Dillinghams—Palmetto Library, No. 2. The War Trail, no. 8. The White Gaunt-
 let, by Capt. Mayne Reid; Allen Pinkerton's Great Detective Stories. Nos. 9
 10 11 14 18; Mother Truth's melodies.
 Ogilvie's—Railroad Series. Nos. 1 88 97 126 127 128, "Old Sleuth's Own," nos.
 17 21 29. Eureka Detective Series nos. 2 to 5 13 15 to 18 24 26 33 36 38 40 43
 44 47 50
 Beadle & Adams—New and Old Friends, nos. 1 to 4; Saturday Journals, nos.
 236 243 251 254 287, 1 to 113, 201 to 210, 214 215 219 220 223 224 335 337 338
 342 344 378 380 346 to 362, 364 365 366 367 369 371 376 to 390 394 417 473
 474 475 478 480 486 490 to 493; Beadle's Weekly nos. 14 to 300.
 Tousey's—Life of Peter Pad, Life of Tom Teaser, Life of "Ed", Life of Police
 Capt. Howard; The Young Men of America. Nos. 525 528 529 533 534 539 544
 545 546 548 582 585 to 590; The Golden Weekly, nos. 45 to 52 57 67 68 69 70
 71 72 76 79 80 81 83 84 85 87 96 97 98 102 103 109 113 118 119 128 132 133 141
 Street & Smith's—Motor Stories, thins, nos. 6 10 17 19 20, Historical Library,
 any. Brett's, English, Our Boys Journal vol. 1 nos. 24 25 26.
 Brett's—Boys of England. vols. 10, 11, 12, 15, 19.
 Tousey's—Happy Days nos. 1486 to 1563, and the 3 colored covered Novels,
 that completed the Serials in Happy Days.
 Munro's—Our Boys, nos. 11 19 20 22 to 76 79 90 104 106 107 110 111 114 118
 to 131. Joe Park's, English, Vanity Fair, nos. 1 to 31, Collector's Miscel-
 lany, no. 43, April 1930 to New Series, no. 1, Nov.-Dec. 1932.
 Tousey's—The Boys of New York, nos. 441 to 470, 980 to 1000.
 My Play House Was a Concord Stage. By Helen M. B. Boggs.

Cash paid for the above items.

JAMES WM. MARTIN

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